



# HERITAGE

GROWING AND CONNECTING EDUCATORS

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## THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER SPONSOR



Dear Kappans, Thetans, and Friends of PDK,

With the publishing of each newsletter, we have the opportunity to reflect on the happenings of the past six months and think through what's on the horizon. Thanks to your support, we are making an impact in supporting educators who are committed to improving schools so that all students thrive. We hope you will read through this newsletter to learn more.

The Greek letter "Phi" refers to "philanthropia," defined as the "love of humankind." This love of humankind underscores all the work we do here at PDK International and is the reason that so many of you engage with the greater PDK community and make gifts to support the PDK Educational Foundation. In this issue, you'll learn how philanthropy is powering our scholarship program for educators, the Educators Rising National Conference, Community of Learning and Practice, PDK Poll, and many more resources for current, future, and former educators.

We hope you'll agree that there's power in philanthropy. If you are moved to contribute, we have included a return envelope for your convenience that will allow you to make a gift of any size to the PDK Educational Foundation. Thank you for your active participation, continued membership, support, and belief in the power that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. We believe we can.

Sincerely,



**Kate Stephens**  
Director of  
Relationships  
& Outreach,  
PDK International



**Boosaba Tantisunthorn**  
Director of  
Development  
& Engagement,  
PDK International

## TEACHER APPRECIATION MONTH

Thank you to all our members and friends who made donations during Teacher Appreciation Month in May to support our growing network of aspiring educators. Every gift of every size helps us reach and support more young people who are working toward a career in education.

To make your contribution today, visit [pdkintl.org/heritage](https://pdkintl.org/heritage).



Christopher Edwards  
Photography

## STAY TUNED FOR THE LATEST POLL RESULTS!

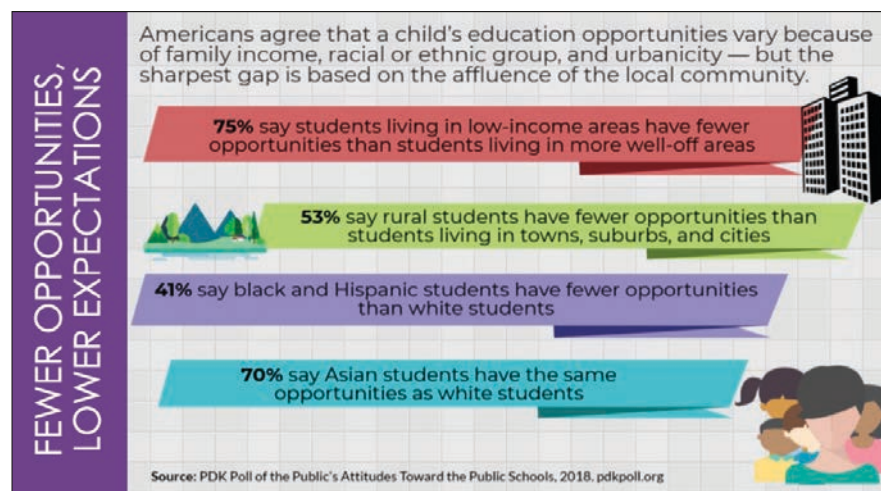
Keep your eye out for results from the 2019 *PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools* in August, which you'll be able to find at [pdkpoll.org](https://pdkpoll.org). Thanks to support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, PDK International has been able to expand the national sample size, oversample teachers, and conduct focus groups. This year's poll will include questions about the teaching profession, discipline at school, workplace skills, school funding, and how to assess school quality.

Interested in seeing the past 50 years of results? Review the PDK Poll timeline at [pdkpoll.org/timeline](https://pdkpoll.org/timeline).

## VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

This past March, PDK hosted our second Virtual Town Hall event, *School Segregation: A 21st Century Problem*, featuring *Kappan* authors Erica Frankenberg and Edward Fergus. PDK members from across the country, including teachers, researchers, district leaders, and students were able to submit their thought-provoking questions. If you missed the conversation, you can find a full recording at [pdkintl.org/heritage](https://pdkintl.org/heritage).

Have an idea for a future Virtual Town Hall? Email us at [memberservices@pdkintl.org](mailto:memberservices@pdkintl.org) with your ideas!



## EDRISING COLLEGIATE

This past May, PDK convened a group of universities from the greater D.C. area to discuss next steps around the Educators Rising Collegiate program. A mix of students, faculty, and deans represented Towson, American, George Mason, and Catholic universities to share their feedback and insight on the supports PDK can provide through the Educators Rising Collegiate program. This highly engaged group is already planning for the 2019–20 school year!



The collegiate level of Educators Rising focuses on undergraduate students planning on pursuing careers in education. This new level of membership will allow like-minded students to work together to gain the knowledge and skills needed to become successful in the classroom.

Visit [pdkintl.org/heritage](https://pdkintl.org/heritage) for more information on how to start a program at your college or university.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP READERS

This past spring, 56 PDK and Pi Lambda Theta members volunteered their time and expertise to help review scholarship applications for the Prospective Educator, the Pi Lambda Theta Student Support, and Advanced Degree scholarships. With their help, more than 300 scholarship applications were reviewed and scored online, which allowed us to award 85 scholarships totaling \$155,600 to deserving applicants from across the country in June.

Visit [pdkintl.org/heritage](https://pdkintl.org/heritage) for a complete list of scholarship recipients and our generous volunteer readers.

### EDUCATORS RISING NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

More than 1,300 aspiring and practicing educators attended the Educators Rising National Conference 2019 on June 22–25, 2019, in Dallas, Texas. We heard powerful and inspiring speeches from our keynote speakers: educator and activist Jose Luis Vilson, and the 2019 National Teacher of the Year Rodney Robinson. The conference was emceed by our Educators Rising National Student Officers, who highlighted and demonstrated the conference theme: There's Power in Student Voice. We look forward to seeing these future educators grow through their continued participation in Educators Rising, Educators Rising Collegiate, and PDK Association membership!

## INTRODUCING NICOL – LAUNCHING AT PDK 2020 CONFERENCE

The National Institute of Central Office Leaders (NICOL) is designed to advance the work of school system leaders by providing a rich learning experience that connects research to practice. NICOL brings together central office leaders across the country to learn, problem solve, and develop actions that address challenges within their context. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting professional learning opportunity.

### **PDK WELCOMES NEW STAFF**

Kaili Baucum  
Director of Education  
Partnerships

Justine Hirschfeld  
Creative Services  
Manager

Marvin Pimentel  
Bookkeeper

## ***MAY 2019 COLP CONVENING***

With support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, PDK Education Partnerships established and nurtured a thriving Community of Learning and Practice (CoLP) over the past two



years. The CoLP has provided a wealth of opportunities — both virtual and face-to-face — for district superintendents and their cabinet leadership teams to explore central office transformation. Together, they have identified their most pressing problems of practice, debated promising solutions, dove into the recent research on central office redesign, and defined concrete action plans for school system improvement, with a focus on ensuring that all students have access to ambitious, high-quality instruction. In May, this network of school system leaders came together with peers and researchers from around the country over two days to further devise theories of actions and discuss next steps in central office transformation.

With the culmination of this first cohort of the CoLP, we announced the launching of the CoLP Alumni Network. We look forward to continuously growing this partnership with all our district leaders in the coming months.

*If you would like to volunteer or support this program, please contact [EdPartnerships@pdkintl.org](mailto:EdPartnerships@pdkintl.org).*

## ***GROW YOUR OWN SUMMIT***

On October 22–23, 2019, PDK International, in partnership with AASA and NASSP, will host a Grow Your Own Summit in Alexandria, Virginia. During this event, we look forward to convening researchers and practitioners who are currently leading initiatives to develop a shared understanding of best practices and strategies for effectively recruiting and retaining the next generation of educators.



## ***PDK VOLUNTEERING/ MENTORING PROGRAM***



Join our network of PDK mentors and share your experience with the next generation. Give aspiring and new educators support throughout their teaching journey while helping them explore the variety of education and career paths.

Contact [volunteer@pdkintl.org](mailto:volunteer@pdkintl.org) for more information.

## **INTRODUCING “FIRST PERSON”**

Do you have a personal story about education that will entertain, move, or inspire *Kappan* readers? Submit a first-person narrative about teaching and learning, classroom conflicts, heartwarming encounters, humorous events, and other tales of life in and around school.

Submit your 1,000- to 2,000-word story to [manuscript@pdkintl.org](mailto:manuscript@pdkintl.org).



## **Bring the World to Your Students with the PDK International Travel Program**



**South Africa | July 11-21, 2020**



**China | July 2021**

To learn more and reserve your spot visit [pdkintl.org/international-travel/](http://pdkintl.org/international-travel/) or call **571-335-0083**.

As a member of PDK, you are instantly eligible to receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward the trip.

Enroll by July 31st and learn how you can save an additional \$200!

## REJOIN PDK TODAY

If you've let your membership lapse, you can reinstate it today to regain access to networking opportunities, valuable resources such as *Kappan* magazine, and more. If you're a recent Pi Lambda Theta graduate, you are eligible for a discounted PDK membership as you transition into the classroom! To join or rejoin, visit [pdkintl.org/heritage](https://pdkintl.org/heritage) or call **800-766-1156**.

## ACCESS YOUR PDK MEMBER BENEFITS ONLINE

Your PDK member profile has a new look! If you haven't logged in recently, make sure to visit [members.pdkintl.org](https://members.pdkintl.org) to update your profile and help us connect you with resources and content targeted to your interests!

## THANK YOU, DANIEL KEDZIERSKI

Did you know that this newsletter gets its name from the Heritage Society, the PDK Educational Foundation's recognition society for those who have included a charitable gift to the Foundation in their estate plans? Heritage Society members, like those listed below, commit to making an enduring investment in public education by giving to the Foundation via their wills, trust, annuities, insurance policies, or retirement plan assets. We'd like to thank Daniel Kedzierski, a 50+ year PDK member from Montgomery, Alabama, for his recent bequest. Daniel served on the Emerging Leader Council, and his gift will continue to make a lasting impact for our network of inspired and committed educators.



Sharon Dorner Andelora • Charles & Claudia Cornett • Barbara Dubnick • Don & Verna Duncan • Jacob Epstein • Patricia Frazier • The Gamache/Koger Living Trust • George F. Kersey Jr. • Jonathan Kitto • Gerald & Emily Leischuck • Eve Proffitt • Lolita Santiago • Randall J. Schmalz • Sharon Schulte • Anonymous

To learn more about how you can make a lasting impact through a planned gift, contact Boosaba Tan, director, development and engagement at **571-814-5417** or [btan@pdkintl.org](mailto:btan@pdkintl.org).

## ESTABLISHING A SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Did you know that more than 50 individuals and families have established endowed scholarship funds to provide financial assistance to students pursuing undergraduate and advanced degrees in education? Awarded annually, these scholarships are powered by the generosity of our members and friends who recognize the importance of supporting the next generation of educators. If you'd like more information about establishing a scholarship fund, please contact Boosaba Tan, director, development and engagement at **571-814-5417** or [btan@pdkintl.org](mailto:btan@pdkintl.org).





## NEW SERVICE CONNECTS PDK MEMBERS WITH TOP MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

PDK's Member Insurance Program provides tremendous value on insurance protection from companies such as New York Life, GEICO, and MetLife. The program is offered through the Trust for Insuring Educators (TIE), which has been helping educators access affordable, high-quality insurance plans for more than 45 years.

SpecialtyCare Connect, a new service through PDK's Member Insurance Program, helps you find the best medical specialists for your diagnosis while keeping you in-network and close to home. Whether you're looking for the most qualified physician or need additional insurance coverage for you and your family, TIE has you covered.

To learn more, apply for coverage online, or download applications, visit the PDK Member Insurance Program at [www.ftj.com/pdk](http://www.ftj.com/pdk).

## MAKING A GIFT TO PDK

Every year, our list of people to thank gets longer! With support from our members and friends, we are making critical investments in our programs that make the most impact for our network of aspiring educators, practicing educators, systems-level leaders, and education champions who share our commitment to research, leadership, and service. Gifts of all sizes enable us to run our scholarship program, host the Educators Rising National Conference, conduct the PDK Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, and more.

To make your contribution, mail your check to the PDK Educational Foundation or donate online at [pdkintl.org/heritage](http://pdkintl.org/heritage). Thank you!

## DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT: NATALIE MORALES

Our community of educators is our most valuable asset! Through our Distinguished Educator survey, we are beginning to collect stories of our most dedicated members and learn about the impact they have in a classroom.



Natalie Morales began teaching in 2001 and has since earned her Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership from Western Connecticut State University. In addition, she has received the NERA Teacher as a Researcher Award and the SUNY Dutchess EOP Staff Recognition award.

In her 18 years of teaching, she has discovered her favorite aspect of being in the classroom is experiencing the excitement of learning in the faces of her students. Her formula for the academic achievement of her students is Positive Attitude + Effort + Strategy = Success & Achievement.

To learn more about how you can become recognized as a Distinguished Educator, visit [pdkintl.org/heritage](http://pdkintl.org/heritage).





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National Educators Rising Competition • National Institute of Central Office  
Leadership • Grow Your Own Summit • Policy, Kappan, Poll and much more...



**PDK 2020 Conference**  
June 17-21, 2020  
Washington, DC

**SAVE THE DATE**

